POL 27 ARAB-ISR

INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State

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Kuala Lumpur 4697

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY G.M. Razi DATE Sept. 19, 80
RDS or XDS EXT. DATE
REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS
DECLASSIFIED RELEASABLE
RELEASE DENIED
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS
Not relevant
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C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 4697

REF: KL 4694

SUBJ: MIDDLE EAST

1. UNLESS DEPT HAS OBJECTION, I PROPOSE SEND FOLLOWING SELF-EXPLANATORY NOTE TO PRIME MINISTER. REQUEST CONCURRENCE URGENTLY.

"DEAR TUNKU,

DURING OUR DISCUSSION YESTERDAY AFTERNOON I TOLD YOU THAT AIRCRAFT CARRIERS OF THE U.S. SIXTH FLEET WERE SEVERAL HUNDRED MILES FROM THE AREA OF THE FIGHTING BETWEEN ISRAEL AND SOME ARAB STATES. THE PRESS THIS MORNING REPORTS AN ATTACK ON A UNITED STATES NAVY RESEARCH VESSEL 15 MILES OFF THE COAST OF THE SINAI PENINSULA. THIS VESSEL THE U.S.S. LIBERTY, IS A CONVERTED CARGO SHIP AND HAS NO OFFENSIVE CAPABILITY. IT WAS IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN TO ASSURE COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN U.S. GOVERNMENT POSTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND TO ASSIST IN RELAYING INFORMATION CONCERNING THE EVACUATION OF AMERICAN DEPENDENTS AND OTHER AMERICAN CITIZENS IN THE COUNTRIES OF THE MIDDLE EAST."

2. SUGGEST SIMILAR STATEMENT BY DEPT SPOKESMAN, IF NOT ALREADY MADE, WOULD BE USEFUL.

GP-3. BELL
BT

DECLASSIFICATION DATE 5/7/76
PER Burg OFFICE NEA
FADRC FOI CASE NO. 62 0039

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